

*Washington, DC* – U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) issued the following statement on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. "On the solemn anniversary of Dr. King's untimely and tragic death, Americans of all backgrounds should join together to commemorate Dr. King and the thousands of men and women who worked tirelessly and risked so much for the most noble of causes. The Civil Rights Movement was not about one man, nor did it end with his death. In his life, Dr. King dreamed of an America that was equal, and without prejudice.

"While we cannot forget the hatred that led to his death, we choose to remember what this great man stood for during his life. An assassin's bullet killed Dr. King, but it did not kill what he was fighting to achieve. Dr. King motivated us with his words and led us with his actions. He showed us that hatred and violence could be beaten with peace and non-violence.

"Sadly, Dr. King was not the only person who was killed during the Civil Rights Movement. He was a unifying force of the movement. He embodied the movement. The people that killed him were trying to stop the march of freedom and justice, but the movement had already begun. Upon his death, thousands of people who had found strength because of Dr. King were able to continue the work that was left to be done. We are thankful for Dr. King's work, we celebrate we celebrate his life and for the last 40 years, we have mourned his death."

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